

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SY-05 OCL-00 EUR-12 /062 W

----- 129060

P 161130Z OCT 75

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3639

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

DIA WASHDC PRIORITY

ONI WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0879

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: APER PINR

SUBJECT: ESTIFANOS, ZEREYOJANNES, ETHIOPIAN CITIZEN

REF: ATHENS 7921

1. ESTIFANOS WELL KNOWN TO CONGEN AND TO KAGNEW PERSONNEL AS ONE OF NUMEROUS LOCAL CITIZENS WHO CLAIM DIRECT RELATIONSHIP WITH INSURGENTS AND WILLING PASS ON INFORMATION. HE DID MANAGE A PHARMACEUTICAL FIRM IN ASMARA, AND HE WAS IN FACT ARRESTED AND MISTREATED BY ETHIOPIAN ARMY. HE WAS ACCUSED OF COMPLICITY WITH INSURGENTS. BUT CONGEN NOT AWARE THAT RELATIONSHIPS WITH AMERICANS IN ASMARA YET GROUNDS FOR ARREST AND TORTURE. DONALD M. WELCH, WHOSE LETTER ESTIFANOS CARRIED, WAS FORMERLY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER AT CONGEN AND IS KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN PERSONALLY FRIENDLY WITH ESTIFANOS.

2. INFORMATION ESTIFANOS PROVIDED CONGEN FROM TIME TO TIME WAS NO MORE OR LESS RELIABLE THAN THAT PROVIDED BY VARIETY OF CONGEN CONTACTS AND FRIENDS. ESTIFANOS HAS BEEN RECKLESS AND, INDEED, IRRESPONSIBLE ON THAT HE SPOKE MUCH TOO FREELY AND OPENLY ON MATTERS ABOUT WHICH EPMG
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MILITARY AUTHORITIES COULD BE EXPECTED TO BE VERY SENSITIVE.

IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT HE WAS INCARCERATED, BUT IT IS SURPRISING THAT HE WAS RELEASED AND PERMITTED TO LEAVE ETHIOPIA.

3. INASMUCH AS ESTIFANOS WAS A FRIEND TO VARIOUS PERSONS ON CONGEN STAFF, ANY ASSISTANCE EMBASSY ATHENS MAY BE ABLE TO GIVE HIM IN SECURING EMPLOYMENT WOULD BE APPRECIATED AS A GESTURE OF AMERICAN GOOD WILL. HOWEVER, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT HE NOT BE TAKEN TOO SERIOUSLY AS AN INFORMANT AND THAT NO SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BE PERMITTED TO DEVELOP BETWEEN ESTIFANOS AND ANY OF THE EMBASSY STAFF IN ATHENS; NOR DO WE BELIEVE THAT HE SHOULD BE EMPLOYED DIRECTLY BY THE EMBASSY, AS HE MAY WELL TRY TO PRESUME UPON HIS PAST RELATIONSHIPS WITH AMERICANS IN ASMARA, BOTH AT CONGEN AND AT KAGNEW. IT SHOULD BE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT ALTHOUGH HE WAS SOMETIMES HELPFUL, HE WAS IN NO SENSE A KEY CONTACT.

4. CDR. EMMERSON IS WELL KNOWN TO CONGEN, HAVING SERVED FOR SEVERAL MONTHS EARLY THIS YEAR IN ASMARA. SUGGEST IF EMMERSON ABLE TO FIND EMPLOYMENT FOR ESTIFANOS, HE PROCEED TO DO SO.
SHERRY

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